



Supporting Free School Meal Auto-enrolment in Yorkshire

Professor Maria Bryant & Dr Annie Connolly



Transforming the Yorkshire Food System

- Regenerative farming
- Early years and schools
- Hybrid food economies

Vision: Tasty, good quality, sustainable food is the 'default' and easiest choice for all children...

ensuring those in greatest need are not left behind or alienated...

*moves **beyond the concept of equity** towards approaches which seek to provide the most benefit to those needing it most*



Auto-Enrolment

- ↑ eligible for FSM nationally (~23%)
- 25% eligible in Yorkshire
- 11% of eligible do not apply
 - Administrative/technical burden
 - Language/literacy barriers
 - Access barriers
 - Stigma
 - Shame

What is the Problem?

- **1 in ten children not receiving the FSM they are eligible to**
 - not getting hot healthy dinner
 - families not getting financial benefit
- **Schools not receiving Pupil Premium funding**



Aim

To support the set-up of auto-enrolment processes for FSM across Yorkshire and evaluate its implementation and impact

- Engage with stakeholders
- Learning event / webinar
- Implementation support and free resources
- Evaluation of implementation and impact

Legacy project

Yorkshire = 1st county to universally deliver auto-enrolment

Sheffield: Case Study

- Introduction of the Auto Award Process in 2016
- Gain consent from parents to use Benefit and Council Tax support info to check FSM eligibility
- Undertaken annually in Aug/Sept
- 2021-22

418 additional children found to be eligible
(includes Early Years children)

£128,530 in additional Pupil Premium funding
available to schools



Sheffield Case Study

Since 2016:

Additional number of children eligible for FSM:

6,403

Additional Pupil Premium funding available to schools:

£3,818,583

*In reality, the total will be greater than £3.8m as this does not include the cumulative, year on year effect of Ever 6. It is estimated that the real total is at least £10m.

No data yet for 2022-23

Data shared with permission from Sheffield City Council

| Academic Year | Letters issued | opt outs/ objections | New Primary claims | New Secondary Claims | Children identified - EY | Est. PP funding to school (does not include EY) |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 16/17 | 3524 | 30 | 783 | 406 | not recorded | £1,392,600.00 |
| 17/18 | 2183 | 46 | 499 | 245 | not recorded | £879,340.00 |
| 18/19 | 2494 | 39 | 399 | 205 | 701 | £697,968.00 |
| 19/20 | 1652 | 16 | 132 | 90 | 504 | £252,780.00 |
| 20/21 | 1238 | 5 | 145 | 141 | 365 | £318,220.00 |
| 21/22 | 958 | 0 | 70 | 43 | 249 | £128,530.00 |
| 22/23 | 1150 | 2 | 75 | 52 | 299 | £149,145.00 |
| | | | 2103 | 1182 | 2118* | £3,818,583.00 |

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What We Are Offering

- Support LAs to implement auto-enrolment processes
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Advocacy and dissemination

Webinar - 30th March

Thank You

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